In the Specification

(1) On page 3, please amend lines 26-28 as follows:

A further object of the present invention is to provide a small synthetic ~~ribo~~nucleic acid sequence GGGA GGGC CCTCTCG GTAGA ACACCA TGACGGA CTATCCCACGAACGCTCACGGGGCCCTCC (SEQ ID No. 1).

(2) On page 5, please amend lines 17-18 as follows:

Proposed secondary structure of the HCV Ires RNA spanning nucleotides 40-372 of the 5'UTR of the viral RNA (SEQ ID No. 2).

(3) On page 6, please amend lines 24-25 as follows:
Proposed secondary structure of HCV IRES (internal ribosome entry site) domain III (121-315 nt) (SEQ ID No. 3), delineating the SL structures, which were generated by oligonucleotide

(4) On page 7, please amend lines 16-20 as follows:

FIG. 6: SL III e+f (A297G) ~~(A297GF)~~ RNA fails to bind to S5 ribosomal protein and does not inhibit HCV IRES-mediated translation.
~~In the results FIG. 5A and B seem to indicate binding of HeLa lysate and purified S5 protein with all the small RNAs. Please check.~~
(A) Representation of the SL III e+f RNA (SEQ ID No. 4) showing the mutation of A297 to G (SEQ ID No. 5).